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NORTH DAKOTA YOUTHS  
WORK AS OBSERVERS ON  
WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

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One hundred and fifty North Dakota farm youths equipped with binoculars, cameras, and notebooks are keeping a check on wild birds and animals, and conditions generally, on 68 wildlife refuges in their State for the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey. Each boy devotes at least 10 hours weekly to this work. The information he supplies is used by the Survey in maintaining and developing the refuges.

A cooperative agreement for employing 1 to 10 young men as biological observers on each of the 68 refuges was completed recently by the National Youth Administration and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The refuges, established and developed within the last 18 months as a part of the Department's program of wildlife conservation and restoration, are also useful for water conservation.

Under the guidance of four district biologists the young men are being trained in making observations on the refuges. Each week they submit two reports to the district biologists, who in turn edit and summarize the information for the use of the Bureau's central office at Bismarck, N. Dak.

Land for these wildlife sanctuaries was obtained from farmers, other landowners, and the State through easement grants, and funds from the Works Progress Administration enabled the Bureau to develop them. Thousands of ducks nested and

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raised their young there during the drought last summer. Many farmers also hauled water from these places for their livestock.

This cooperative project, says the Bureau, not only furnishes employment to needy farm youths, but also training in wildlife conservation and management. Most of the youths live near the refuges, and were chosen because they are farm boys, well-informed about local wildlife. In connection with their work on the refuges they also make it a point to repair broken fencing, replace fallen refuge signs, and perform other small tasks.

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